

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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P R 181451Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2110
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USLO PEKING

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, GR, AL
SUBJ: ALBANIAN EMBASSY ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA

REF: ATHENS 7584 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE ALLEGED ALBANIAN EMBASSY PAMPHLET REFERRED TO IN REFTEL AND ARE TRANSMITTING IT TO EUR/EE. (THE PAMPHLET WAS PURPORTEDLY PRINTED IN TIRANA IN ENGLISH BY THE "8 NENTORI" PUBLISHING HOUSE.) PRESS REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN HERE CLAIM THAT THE PAMPHLET HAS ALSO BEEN CIRCULATED BY ALBANIAN EMBASSIES IN OTHER CAPITALS (E.G., BELGRADE AND VIENNA). THE GREEK PRESS HAS NOT SHOWN ANY GREAT INTEREST IN THIS STORY SO FAR WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ELEFTHEROTYPIA WHICH BEGAN PRINTING A GREEK TRANSLATION OF THE SO-CALLED "ENVER
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HOXHA-CHOU EN-LAI CONVERSATION" ON AUGUST 17.

2. IN REACTION TO THE INITIAL ELEFTHEROTYPIA STORY (REFTEL), THE ALBANIAN EMBASSY HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT DENYING THAT AMBASSADOR SEITI HAD GIVEN AN INTERVIEW TO AN ELEFTHEROTYPIA REPORTER, AS CLAIMED BY THE NEWSPAPER, AND STATING THAT THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE AMBASSADOR BY ELEFTHEROTYPIA "DO NOT CORRESPOND TO THE

TRUTH."

3. TODAY SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS PICKED UP THE DENIAL, WHICH WAS ALSO CARRIED IN YESTERDAY'S SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY BULLETIN. ELEFTHEROTYPIA REJECTS THE ALBANIAN EMBASSY DENIAL AND PRINTS A DETAILED ACCOUNT TODAY, AUGUST 18, IN WHICH LOUIS DANOS, WHO WROTE THE AUGUST 16 STORY, INSISTS HE MET WITH THE ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST AND THE AMBASSADOR MADE THE STATEMENTS AS REPORTED (REFTEL) WHEN HE GAVE DANOS A COPY OF THE PAMPHLET.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE ALBANIAN EMBASSY DENIED THAT AMBASSADOR SEITI HAD GIVEN AN INTERVIEW TO DANOS AND STATED THAT THE STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO THE AMBASSADOR IN ELEFTHEROTYPIA WERE NOT TRUE, IT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE PAMPHLET ITSELF. (ACTUALLY THE PAMPHLET CONTAINS ONLY A STATEMENT BY HOXHA, WHICH SOUNDS LIKE THE STANDARD ALBANIAN POSITION ON THE WORLD, AND IS NOT THE FULL RECORD OF A "CONVERSATION" BETWEEN HOXHA AND CHOU EN-LAI.) IF THE PAMPHLET IS IN FACT LEGITIMATE, IT IS PUZZLING WHY THE ALBANIAN EMBASSY WOULD CIRCULATE IT, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE EMBASSY HERE NORMALLY MAINTAINS A VERY LOW PROFILE.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE PRESS REPORTS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE ACCURATE AND THE SAME PAMPHLET HAS BEEN CIRCULATED ELSEWHERE BY THE ALBANIANS, THE MOVE MAY BE PART OF A BROADER ALBANIAN EFFORT. WE HAVE SEEN SOME SPECULATION HERE RELATING IT TO A POSSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALBANIAN INITIATIVE TO CONVENE SOME KIND OF MEETING OF ORTHODOX MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER THIS IS LIKELY OR NOT, ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE. BUT WHATEVER MAY BE THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS PAMPHLET AFFAIR, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE LOCAL ALBANIAN AMBASSADOR WILL HAVE A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO IN TIRANA.

MILLS

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